

B1  
0004.  
is higher than that expressed by said natural gene in an in vitro mammalian cell culture system under identical conditions.

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Please amend claim 49 as follows:

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Ba  
49. (Amended) A method for preparing a synthetic gene encoding a protein normally expressed by mammalian cells, comprising identifying rarely-used and less-preferred codons containing an inhibitory/instability region in the natural gene encoding said protein and replacing one or more of said rarely-used or less-preferred codons with a preferred codon encoding the same amino acid as the replaced codon, so that a synthetic gene is prepared.

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**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the reference to priority on page 1 as follows:

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B3  
This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/678,437, filed October 2, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,414,132; which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/414,117, filed October 8, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,291,664; which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/850,049, filed May 2, 1997, now U.S. Patent 5,965,726; which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/050,478, now U.S. Patent No. 5,972,596; which is a 371 of PCT/US93/02908, filed March 29, 1993; which is a continuation-in part of U.S. Serial No. 07/858,747, filed March 27, 1992, now U.S. Patent No. 6,174,666B1. The disclosures of each of these applications is hereby incorporated by reference.

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**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

✓  
Please amend the figure legend "Fig. 1" on the second sheet of Figure 1 (C) as follows:

Fig. 1 continued

✓  
Please amend the figure legend "Fig. 14" on the second, third, and forth sheet of Figure 14 (B, C, and D, respectively) as follows:

Fig. 14 continued